

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS DEPARTMENT
Report for the Summer Months
June, July, August, 1946

The Industrial Relations Secretary was officially away on vacation for the month of August. On the few days on which his attention was required during August, and during the months of July and June, the activities of the Industrial Relations Department were profitable.

The Household Employment Standards Committee completed its recommendations which, in turn, were approved by the Boards of the two sponsoring agencies, the New Jersey Urban League and the Newark YMCA. After testing chances of a successful conference during the summer, it was decided to await the early fall and the return of housewives to New Jersey from summer vacations.

An outstanding event during the Summer was the Statewide Veterans Conference arranged by the Industrial Relations Department, and held in Newark on July 19 1946, at the Sojourner Truth Branch YMCA. Participating on the Program were: George L. Holland from the office of the Administrator, Veterans Administration, Washington, D. C., Arthur J. Collinson, Assistant Mgr., New Jersey Office of the Veterans Administration; Julius A. Thomas, Industrial Relations Director, National Urban League; George H. Robinson, our own Executive Secretary; Abraham Silverstein, representing Mayor Vincent J. Murphy; Howard J. Lepper, Chief of Training, Vocational, Educational and Rehabilitation Division of the Veterans Administration; and Roy E. Norris, who was Chairman of the Conference.

The Conference got excellent coverage by the white and Negro local press, and attracted significant attention both in Washington and in New Jersey. Veterans Administration officials in Washington and in the regional office for New Jersey have begun close cooperation now with the New Jersey Urban League toward including some Negroes on the staff in New Jersey at levels of responsibility.

Personal letters from General Omar Bradley, Administrator, from A. L. Combes, Director, Education and Training Service for Vocational Rehabilitation and Education, Washington, D. C., and from Homer Rogers, Mgr., New Jersey office, all give evidence of the worthwhile receptions given the recommendations of the Conference, and of what results we may expect.

The Findings of the Conference are given on the attached sheet, and we are asking the Board's consideration of the recommendations made. We would like to sound out other Leagues with respect to consideration of the same recommendations and putting forth a concerted effort with the National office, to get some such improvement in the Veterans Administration as the recommendations seek to bring about.

A Continuing Committee will carry forward the spirit of the Conference and follow-up on its recommendations. Representatives from seven north Jersey cities, from Trenton to Englewood, are serving on this committee. Our Industrial Relations Secretary remains its Chairman until it can function independently of New Jersey Urban League support, or has satisfied its purpose, whichever occurs first.

During June and July the Industrial Relations Secretary participated in eighteen meetings, was a principal in fifteen special conferences, made one public address to an audience of about one thousand persons. The usual problems were handled, involving carefully studied inter-agency relationships.

The statistics of the departments' activities tell a story of several distinct types of industrial programs, all important, and complementary, being carried on simultaneously. Besides the activity described above, there were 255 job applicants interviewed, and 151 referrals made for 62 male applicants, of whom 40 were Veterans, and for 173 female applicants. There were 18 persons given vocational counselling. There were 115 referrals of household employees.